

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PANAMA 02825 211954Z
ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 SAB-02 L-01 SP-02 EB-04
PRS-01 NEA-07 PM-03 INR-05 H-01 /047 W
-----212022Z 050769 /42
R 211740Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1581

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 2825

STADIS////////////////////////////////

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PN, PQ, US
SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF 440TH PRC MEETING APRIL 20

1. TREATY DEVELOPMENTS: AMBASSADOR REPORTED U.S. PROPOSAL TO GOP THAT NEXT ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS BE HELD DURING FIRST WEEK OF MAY WITH EXACT DATE AND PLACE TO BE DETERMINED. HE SAID GOP HAD AGREED BUT INDICATED ITS STRONG PREFERENCE THAT TALKS BE HELD AT CONTADORA. IN REPLY TO ACTING GOVERNOR'S QUESTION REGARDING SCOPE OF NEXT ROUND, AMBASSADOR SAID U.S. NEGOTIATORS MADE CLEAR THEY WILL FEEL FREE TO RAISE ANY UNRESOLVED ISSUE. EARLIER GOP VIEW WAS TO CONCENTRATE ON LANDS AND WATERS AND NEUTRALITY-SECURITY ISSUES. AMBASSADOR ALSO MENTIONED ARRIVAL OF SPECIAL STUDY TEAM TO CONSULT WITH EMBASSY AND PANCANAL ON ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF NEGOTIATIONS AND COMMENTED ON THE FAVORABLE LOCAL REACTIOO TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S REMARKS ON TREATY NEGOTIATIONS IN HIS SPEECH TO OAS.

2. TORRIJOS TRIP TO LIBYA: AMBASSADOR MADE PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ABOUT TORRIJOS' TRIP TOLIBYA AND INDICATED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PANAMA 02825 211954Z

THAT WITH RETURN OF PANAMANIAN DELEGATION ON PREVIOUS DAY, EMBASSY HOPED TO OBTAIN SOME FIRST HAND IMPRESSIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE TORRIJOS PARTY.

3. CLAYTON GATTE INCIDENT: SOME DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE REGARDING AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENT ON THE CLAYTON GATE INCIDENT WHICH RECEIVED WIDE DISSEMINATION. ACTING

GOVERNOR SAID IT WAS GOOD STATEMENT BECAUSE IT CONVEYED
USG REPLY IN NON-INFLAMMATORY MANNER AND HE POINTED TO
ANOTHER TRAFFIC INCIDENT IN CZ WHICH PRO-GOP NEWSPAPER
WAS ATTEMPTING TO EXPLOIT. AMBASSADOR ALERTED PRC TO
POSSIBILITY GOP MIGHT CONTINUE EXERT PRESSURES THROUGH
SIMILAR INCIDENTS.

4. MILITARY EXERCISE ON THATCHER BRIDGE: AMBASSADOR
POINTED TO EXTENSIVE NEWSPAPER PHOTOGRAPHS OF TROOPS
IN COMBAT GEAR AND VEHICLES STATIONED ON EACH END OF
THATCHER FERRY BRIDGE DURING PAST TWO DAYS AND REPORTED
THAT GN GENERAL STAFF OFFICER HAD CALLED MILGP TO INQUIRE
ABOUT PURPOSE OF SUCH TROOPS INDICATING THEY HAD UNSETTLING
EFFECT ON POPULATION. AMBASSADOR URGED THAT WE NOTIFY
GN IN ADVANCE OF ANY SIMILAR HIGHLY-VISIBLE MILITARY
EXERCISES TO AVOID UNNECESSARY ALARM. DEPUTY CINC
EXPLAINED THAT TROOPS ON BRIDGE WERE PARTICIPATING IN
HOWARD AFB PERIMETER DEFENSE EXERCISE. HE ACKNOWLEDGED
FAILURE TO COMMUNICATE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES AND
PROMISED TO KEEP EMBASSY INFORMED IN FUTURE.

5. CODEL METCALFE: ACTING COMMENTED ON RECENT
CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT HEARINGS IN CZ, INDICATING THAT
GOVERNOR WAS GENERALLY PLEASED WITH RESULTS ALTHOUGH
SOMEWHAT CONCERNED WITH IMBALANCE OF STATEMENTS MADE
BY LABOR LEADERS. IT WAS PANCANAL IMPRESSION THAT
SUBCOMMITTEE WAS ALSO SATISFIED WITH ITS VISIT TO ISTHMUS.

6. ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER IN CZ: ACTING GOVERNOR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PANAMA 02825 211954Z

REPORTED THAT AFTER LONG CONSIDERATION, CZG WAS ABOUT
TO REPLY FAVORABLY TO REQUEST BY AMERICAN GROUP TO PUBLISH
"HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER" AIMED AT CANAL ZONE RESIDENTS.
PAPER WOULD BE PRINTED IN U.S. AND SIMILAR TO TICO TIMES,
DISTRIBUTED IN COSTA RICA BY SAME GROUP. CONDITIONS
UNDER WHICH AUTHORIZATION WOULD BE GRANTED PRECLUDE
POLITICAL AND CONTROVERSIAL ARTICLES. ACTING GOVERNOR
SAID CZ AUTHORITIES WANT TO AVOID CHARGES OF LIMITING
FREE SPEECH AND SAID THAT PANCANAL AND SOUTHCOM HOUSE
ORGANS (SPILLWAY AND SCN NEWS) DO NOT MEET REQUIREMENTS
FO CZ COMMUNITY. HE SAID PROPOSAL HAD BEEN DISCUSSED
IN INFORMATION COORDINATING SUBCOMMITTEE. AMBASSADOR SAID
HE DOUBTED SUCH NEWSPAPER COULD MAKE MONEY BECAUSE CZ
AUDIENCE TOO SMALL AND HIGH COSTS OF PRINTING IN U.S.
HE AGREED THAT CZ AUTHORITIES PROBABLY HAD NO CHOICE
IN MATTER.

7. MILITARY TRAINING SCHOOLS IN CZ: DEPUTY CINC SPOKE ABOUT
FORTHCOMING VISIT TO STATE/DEFENSE TEAM TO STUDY FUTURE

OF MILITARY SCHOOLS, E.G., SCHOOL OF AMERICAS, INTER-AMERICAN AIR FORCES ACADEMY. HE ADMITTED FUNDING PROBLEMS MIGHT SUGGEST TRANSFER OF SCHOOLS TO U.S. OR INTERNATIONALIZATION. HE EMPHASIZED GEN. MCAULIFFE'S PERSONAL INTEREST IN MATTER AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT FACT-FINDING TEAM WOULD TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE VIEWS OF HIGH-RANKING LATIN AMERICAN MILITARY LEADERS REGARDING THE VALUE OF THE SCHOOLS.
JORDEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEGOTIATIONS, POLITICAL SUMMARIES, CANALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PANAMA02825
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770139-0277
Format: TEL
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770434/aaaabckn.tel
Line Count: 125
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 865030a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS, STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS, STADIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2737704
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HIGHLIGHTS OF 440TH PRC MEETING APRIL 20
TAGS: PFOR, PN, PQ, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/865030a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009